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To:	Examiner Leonard Weinstein U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Re:	Interview U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/501,885 <u>Attorney Docket No.: 042600</u>
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An outline of the issues for discussion in the interview of May 26, 2009 at 10:00am is attached.

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Interview

Application: 10/501,885

Docket: 042600

Examiner: Leonard Weinstein

- I. The cited structure of Kajiwara '972 (Fig. 6) is not suitable to be fitted with an O-ring
- A. One of ordinary skill in the art would not put an O-ring in the space shown in Fig. 6.
1. Kajiwara '972 discloses that "no installation space is available between the interstage casings for O-rings." (2:14-22.)
 - a. Kajiwara '972 refers to the space around surfaces 3b and 4b. There is no space for an O-ring. Liquid gaskets are used.
 - b. The space formed in part by elements 7 and 2 in Fig. 6 is too big for an O-ring to function properly.
 2. The exposed angular edge of the periphery of the guide vane side wall 7 could damage an O-ring if placed in the space formed in part by elements 7 and 2 in Fig. 6.
 - a. Guide vane side wall 7 is not held in contact with the inner surface of the interstage casing 1.
 - b. In Fig. 6, accurate positioning of the casings is provided by contact at surfaces 3b and 4b. If guide vane side wall 7 is held in contact with the inner surface of the interstage casing 1, then surfaces 3b and 4b are separated from each other resulting in inaccurate positioning.
 - c. Side wall 7 is not attached to the inner surface of casing 1 by welding as alleged in the Office Action.
 - i. The phrase "a guide vane side wall 7 ... is welded to the cylindrical receptacle-like structure of a next adjacent interstage casing" refers to a welding connection between guide vane side wall 7 and bottom wall 2.
- II. Even if Fig. 6 of Kajiwara '972 is modified as alleged in the Office Action, the modified device would not have a space formed in part by a relief plate for fitting an O-ring.
- A. The prior art references as a whole teach a solution for forming a space to fit an O-ring and this solution does not include forming a space in part by a relief plate.
- B. Kajiwara '972 discloses that conventional interstage casings (Fig. 6) are not suitable to be fitted with an O-ring. (2:14-22.) The invention in Kajiwara '972 solves this problem and

provides as an object of its invention to allow for a general O-ring to be used as a seal between the stages of the pump. (2:25-33.)

- C. The solution explicitly taught in Kajiwara '972 for forming a space to fit an O-ring is to integrally form the bottom wall, the cylindrical portion and the cylindrical side wall, and to shape the integral piece such that a space is formed for fitting an O-ring. (2:38-3:7; Figs. 1 and 2.) Kajiwara '033 and Kajiwara '403 provide the same solution.
- D. None of the references teach or suggest using the relief plate to form a space for fitting an O-ring.